

Feb 1846  
Mr. Chapman letters to  
Mr. Estlin

Boston Feb 28<sup>th</sup> 1846

J. B. Estlin Esq.

Dear Sir.

I enclose to  
you address a package of the National  
Anti-Slavery Standard — the organ of  
the American Anti-Slavery Society,  
agreeably to your suggestion, having  
prepared as complete an acknowledge-  
ment as the great pressure of duties which  
might each singly be called upon to perform, would  
permit. It will necessarily prove inadequate  
indeed to express our sense of help & comfort  
in the aid we have received from Bristol.  
Will you, dear Sir, with your daughter, be  
so good as to supply our deficiencies?  
You enquire what more can be

68



done in England to aid our cause,  
besides helping our annual Bazaar.  
My heart is greatly rejoiced by the  
prospect. If a general convocation  
of abolitionists were held in London  
in the Spring, I am sure that  
from their deliberations & subsequent  
action growing out of them, a great  
impulse might be given to the cause  
on this side the water. I have  
had frequent conversations with our  
valued friend & co-worker in the cause  
Samuel May of Leicester, & from his  
statement of the feelings of many English  
abolitionists whom he saw in Bristol  
I have been decided to send you copies  
of the Standard, instead of copies of the  
Liberator for distribution, though to me the  
Liberator is the most interesting, from  
the variety of its topics as well as from  
the depth & originality of Mr Garrison's



Mind. Our sense of the importance of  
a paper which shall not be trammelled  
by any supervision, but which shall  
have freedom to comprehend the whole  
cause by taking cognizance of all  
its boundaries; by going down deep  
to what is fundamental in moral  
principles, & wide, to what is universal,  
causes us to support the Liberator as  
the individual & uncontrolled pioneer  
of our Movement. Our feeling of  
responsibility to those minds, which,  
while they are truly desirous to serve  
the cause, & to cooperate & contribute so to  
do, are yet opposed to the consideration  
of kindred reforms or the application  
of the same principles in other direc-  
tions, have bound us to sustain the  
Standard, which is supported from the  
common treasury, as the organ of  
the Society - under strict supervision of



a committee of the American  
Society, who feel conscientiously bound  
to confine it to Anti Slavery exclusively  
I have my own religious opinions  
& they are probably not so clear to me  
than <sup>are those of</sup> others to them. But I would  
prefer (so I now think) to die rather  
than violate the trust reposed in  
me by the expenditure of <sup>a sum of</sup> the common  
anti-slavery fund in printing a  
paragraph ~~which~~ <sup>which</sup> could work the inter-  
tion of promoting them. It is  
not that I value the Liberator less that  
I have sent the Standard, but simply  
because I thought it might more nearly  
meet the state of mind of many of the  
Bristol contributors. The practical difficulties attend-  
ing a work of reform like this of Anti Slavery  
after the evil it opposes has become part &  
parcel of the Nation, are necessarily great.  
Not the least is the lack of perfect advocacy.  
But when would reform begin if  
it must wait till reformers were faultless?



Feb. 1848  
their position being necessarily a marked  
one, the faults they may have are made  
conspicuous by it; & men who might have  
lived & died with credit had they been re-  
gardless of the cry of humanity, are laden  
with ignominy merely from the circum-  
stance that they were a little better than  
the generality of their neighbors. <sup>10</sup> I could  
wish that some especial thanks were  
conveyed to Mrs (Michelle) for her beautiful  
& attractive contribution of pressed flowers.  
It would have been done in the pa-  
per but for a dread lest it might be  
deemed invidious by other contributors.  
The specifications of the account of the  
Fair may many of them seem un-  
accountable to the English Funds. Most  
of them however, actually meet objections  
or contradict calumnies without formally  
doing so. Where the <sup>non-slavery</sup> Democracy of a  
Country makes it an objection to us, that



we have the Donations of Dukes,  
& the Physicians of the same stamp  
that we receive the Sympathies of ser-  
vants;— When Superstition scoffs at us re-  
ligious, & religious stigmatise us as  
hypocrites;— When quakers rebuke  
us as quarrelsome and political partisan-  
ship casts its stone at us as it passes  
because we are too quiet;— When we  
suffer at the same time under the  
contradictory accusations of a nation  
seeking to find occasion against us  
without betraying the fact that the  
chief occasion it can find is that we  
are opposed to its darling & cherished  
sin;— under such circumstances we  
show as little antagonism about inci-  
dents as we can; & tread down as many  
indictments as we may without altering  
our natural pace or stepping out of our  
ordinary path. Will you pardon so hastily a



letter in consideration of the many  
notes that fall on few to fulfil. Had I time  
however to write to each of the Bristol friends  
severally, I could not expect to my own satisfac-  
tion the fulness of grateful emotion which  
those feel who find amid much misappre-  
hension from their own countrymen a  
vein of sympathy in another land strong  
enough to submerge considerations which  
of phantom & hostile delight to magnify to a  
mountain-size.

With sincere & grateful  
regard to Mrs. Estlin,

I am

Dear Sir

Yours with high respect

W. W. Chapman

53 Federal St. Boston.



Maria Weston Chapman  
53

letter in connection of the same  
that that fact is first of all  
known to me in case of the British  
generally, I could not expect to say anything  
more than the fact of general knowledge which  
these few words have given me. I have  
never known them ever to be in a  
state of ignorance in any other way than  
in regard to the progress of the  
movement. I have never seen a  
man who is not a member of the  
movement.

With regard to the  
movement, I have never seen a  
man who is not a member of the  
movement.

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man who is not a member of the  
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